

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PORT M 00159 242325Z

67-R
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 W
----- 027893

R 241645Z FEB 75
FM AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY
TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0312

UNCLAS PORT MORESBY 0159

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ABUD, PP
SUBJECT: FIELD TRAVEL

REF (A) CANBERRA 1001 (B) CANBERRA 1128

1. WE FOUND IT CONFUSING WHEN CANBERRA S MEMORANDUM OF JANUARY 20 STATING THAT ALL FIELD TRAVEL AND CERTAIN OTHER EXPENSES MUST BE APPROVED IN ADVANCE BY EMBASSY CANBERRA WAS FOLLOWED BY REF (B) WHICH STATES THAT THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR DECIDING OBLIGATIONS RESTS SOLELY WITH THE PRINCIPAL OFFICER (WITH ASSISTANCE FROM FISCAL SERVICING POST).

2. IF WE NOW UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION CORRECTLY, THE PRINCIPAL OFFICER CAN APPROVE THE OBLIGATION OF FUNDS FOR FIELD TRAVEL, BUT SUCH EXPENDITURES MAY LEAD TO A VERY TIGHT FISCAL SITUATION IN THE FOURTH QUARTER UNLESS ADDITIONAL FUNDS ARE MADE AVAILABLE FROM WASHINGTON.

3. IF THE UNDERSTANDING IN PARA (2) IS CORRECT, I APPROVE THE OBLIGATION IF FUNDS FOR MIKE DONOVAN S TRIP (PORT MORESBY 0119). I BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT FOR AN ECONOMIC OFFICER TO GATHER INFORMATION IN THE FIELD FOR REPORTS ON FOREST PRODUCTS AND FISHERIES FOR THE USEOF U.S. BUSINESS-.3., THE PREPARATION OF REPORTS LIKE THESE IS ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS FOR HAVING A POST HERE.

4. I WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT THIS TRIP COULD BE FUNDED BY REQUIRING EMBASSY MANILA TO MAKE GOOD THE AIR FREIGHT
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CHARGES ON THE MATTRESSES WHICH WERE NOT INCLUDED IN OUR

ORIGINAL SHIPMENT. OR THE COSTS COULD BE OFFSET BY HAVING
BRISBANE SHARE THE COSTS OF THE NON-PRO COURIER POUCH SERVICE
ALONG WITH THE BENEFITS.

5. IF SHIFTS SUCH AS THESE ARE NOT POSSIBLE, AND IF WE DO
NOT OBTAIN ADDITIONAL FUNDING FROM WASHINGTON, WE WILL HAVE
A LEAN LAST QUARTER.

6. PLEASE CONFIRM ASAP THAT TRIP CAN BE FUNDED ACCORDING
TO UNDERSTANDING OUTLINED ABOVE. WE NEED THIS INFO BY
FEBRUARY 27 TO FIRM UP OUR PLANS. OLMSTED

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